



SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/968,034

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**METHOD AND DEVICE FOR FEEDING COMPONENTS
FOR BONE CEMENT INTO A MIXING VESSEL FOR THESE**

This application is a continuation application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/734,817, abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/545,591, abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of International Application PCT/SE94/00415 with an international filing date of May 6, 1994, which claims priority from SE 9301599-8 filed on May 10, 1993.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

10 The present invention relates to a method for successively feeding batches of constituent components into a mixing vessel for the preparation of bone cement under vacuum. The invention also relates to an apparatus for successively feeding batches of constituent components into a mixing vessel under partial vacuum for the preparation of bone cement.

15 2. Description of the Prior Art

Bone cement is prepared by mixing polymethyl methacrylate in powder form with liquid monomethylmethacrylate in a mixing container. Both the liquid component and the combined mixture give off substances in gaseous form which are environmentally harmful and injurious to human health. For this reason, it is important for the introduction of the bone cement components into the mixing container and the mixing process itself, to take place in such a way that the smallest possible quantity of the harmful gases escape into the surrounding environment. Mixing vessels have been developed where the introduced components were successfully prepared into bone cement without a substantial release of the aforementioned gases. However, in order for the bone cement to develop its optimal strength